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09 MAY 2013

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING BILL

As you will be aware, the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill was amongst those announced in the Queen's Speech on Wednesday. The Bill is being published today. I will be taking the Bill through the House of Commons with support from Damien Green who will lead on policing measures.

The Bill allows for a more effective approach to tackling crime. Through simplifying the anti-social behaviour powers the Bill will ensure a timely, effective and victim-focused response to anti-social behaviour. It will encourage responsible dog ownership through measures to hold owners accountable for attacks by their dogs on private property as well as attacks in public areas. The Bill will criminalise forced marriage offering greater protection to victims and potential victims. In addition to these measures, the Bill will tackle the use of illegal firearms by gangs and organised criminal groups.

The Bill also builds on our reforms to the policing landscape. It will enhance the integrity and professionalism of the police by extending the powers and remit of the Independent Police Complaints Commission and the College of Policing. It will also abolish the Police Negotiating Board and replace it with an independent Police Remuneration Review Body, which will make evidence based recommendations on police remuneration.

In addition to the above the Bill amends the counter-terrorism border security powers in Schedules 7 and 8 of the Terrorism Act 2000 to ensure a better balance between the need to protect the public safely and protecting individual freedoms.
I am pleased to enclose a copy of the ECHR memorandum which we have published alongside of the Bill.

The Committee will wish to scrutinise the Bill in the normal way and will, no doubt, have a number of issues which it will want to explore further before publishing its report. I stand ready to respond to any questions the Committee may have. To ensure a prompt response, it would be helpful if any correspondence from you could be copied direct to the Bill Manager (Charles Goldie, email: charles.goldie1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, tel. 020 7035 6773).

Jeremy Browne MP
Minister of State